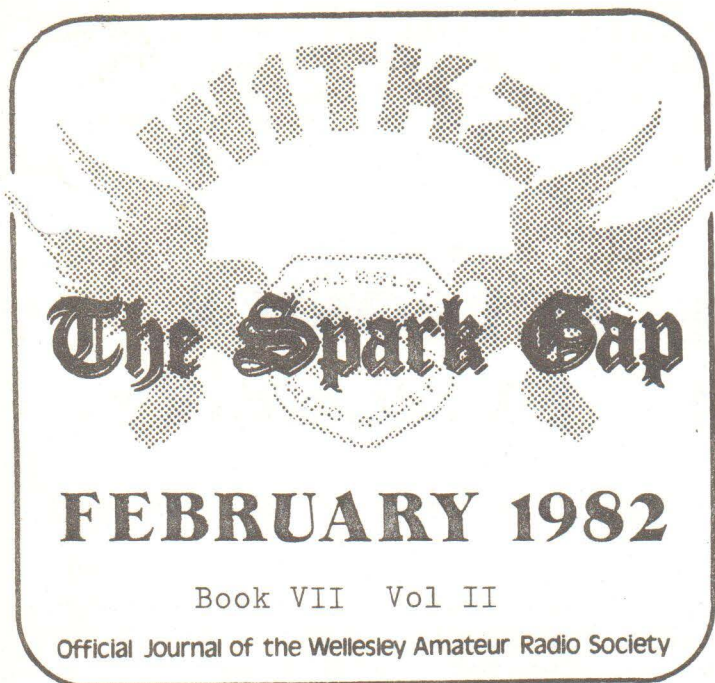




It Seems to Me...

A rather disturbing trend has been noted starting in the club over the past year or two. Ten years ago or so, W.A.R.S. was a very small club with relatively few activities. Then, with a change in leadership and a great increase in the number of activities available to members the number of members rose very quickly until we became one of the largest clubs in the area and certainly the one with the most activities available to its members. But in the last year or so, the membership has been dropping almost as fast as it rose only a few years before even though we still have the same activities that apparently attracted people in the first place, and even more. In addition, I read each month in many of the newsletter we get from other clubs in exchange for the Spark Gap how they are continually adding new members even though they seem to have smaller programs of activities than W.A.R.S. does.

So what are we doing wrong? We still have an active and enthusiastic leadership with the interest and ability to take on and do a first rate job on any activity. We do all or almost all the things other area clubs do, such as guest speakers (out of nine meetings designated as speaker meetings during 1981 we managed to find eight speakers on such subjects as

microprocessors, Army MARS, Gunnplexers, and test equipment); a club outing (the picnic which usually comes in August); and a fund raising event (both an auction and a flea market, when most other clubs have one or the other). We've tried having a banquet which has proved very successful in other clubs. Most other clubs stop here, but W.A.R.S. goes beyond with many other activities which should be familiar to any Spark Gap reader.

This problem would seem to require looking at, and could especially use the input of the "silent majority" of those who are not at every meeting or at every event but support W.A.R.S. with their membership. Maybe it's just a problem of not selling ourselves hard enough to make new people with similar interests aware of our existence. I've thought about this many times and have been stumped as to finding an answer. Anyone else have an idea? ☐

- - - - -
As I look out the window and see the snow coming down (again!) summer and Field Day seem awfully far away. However, this event more than any other requires advanced planning as it is the only one where we normally do not return to the same place every year. Thus some early thinking, like right now, is required to make all the arrangements before June rolls around. So what do you want to do for Field Day this year? Let your officers know now. ☐

ANNOUNCEMENT

It is time to start thinking about officers for the 1982/83 club year. Nomination of officers will be held at the March 4 meeting, with elections to be held at the May 20 meeting. You may make nominations by mail, by sending them to C.J. McDonald, WB1BUM, 48 Hale Street, Newton, Mass. 02164. ☐

MEETINGS THIS MONTH:

February 4, 1982, at 7:30 pm

February 18, 1982, at 7:30 pm

Intermediate Bldg., Wellesley Hills, Mass.

by Pete Bradley, N1ADX/G4KJZ

☐

By Mike Adlerstein, K1FB

But I think it will take time for new habits to form. On most CW QSO's I have, I find that simply sending "K" at the end of a transmission throws the other guy for a loop--catches him off guard. I am greeted with a lengthy I.D. "K1FB DE WB1XYZ R R R, FB FB BT BT". Maybe this is necessary to give the fellow time to think. Wouldn't it

Perhaps you can teach an old dog
new tricks!

For Sale: The Greater Boston Chapter of the American Red Cross has the following items: Kenwood DG-1A digital display for TS-820, in original box; Heathkit 80 meter phone monobander with SB-600 AC power supply; Kenwood TR-7625 2 meter FM synthesized transceiver; Yaesu FT-221 2 meter all mode transceiver; Collins 32V1 transmitter. For further information on any of the above items, please contact David Dodell, 956-6990 (days) or 426-8963 (evenings) or Steve MacKenzie, 891-5631 (evenings).

FCC has denied a petition submitted by Charles T. Rauch, W8JI, designated RM-3761, which sought to establish exclusive subbands in the 160 meter Amateur band for type A1 emission. In denying the petition, FCC noted that the ARRL has undertaken voluntary partitioning of the band, and expressed its belief that this approach to segregating inharmonious operating modes is more flexible and responsive to the Amateur community. Thus, in the commission's view, a voluntary band plan is more appropriate for 160 meters

The Spark Gap

Official Journal of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society



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THE "SPARK GAP" IS A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY. ITS PRIMARY PURPOSE IS TO KEEP ITS MEMBERS ABREAST OF CURRENT HAPPENINGS, F.C.C. RULES & REGULATIONS CHANGES, AND TO LIST EQUIPMENT OFFERED FOR SALE OR TRADE BY MEMBERS. MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE "SPARK GAP" AND MAY SENT THEIR ARTICLES (TYPEWRITTEN IF POSSIBLE) TO THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OR TO THE CLUB ADDRESS.

THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF AMATEUR RADIO THROUGH INSTRUCTION, FELLOWSHIP, DEMONSTRATION, AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF PARTICIPATION. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOCIETY IS \$8. THE CLUB YEAR RUNS SEPTEMBER 1 TO AUGUST 31. AMATEUR NOVICE AND GENERAL CLASSES ARE CONDUCTED REGULARLY AT NO COST. TO ENROLL IN A CLASS, OR GAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOCIETY IN GENERAL, WRITE:

THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
324 WASHINGTON STREET
WELLESLEY HILLS, MASS. 02181



than the imposition of new regulatory burdens. The order denying RM-3671 was released December 14, 1981.

Number 153, dated December 24, 1981:

Although Amateurs in some countries now have authorization to commence 10 MHz operation beginning January 1, 1982, such permission for U.S. Amateurs cannot be forthcoming, despite efforts by the League, until further implementation procedures have been completed by our government. See League Lines in January QST, and monitor W1AW for further 10 MHz news. U.S. Amateurs are cautioned against any operation which would bring discredit to the Amateur Service. □

Minutes

Meeting of January 7, 1982:

The meeting was opened at 7:45 pm by President David Curry, K1TK, with 14 members present.

The secretary's report was read.

The treasurer's report was read. We currently have 48 paid up members.

The president gave a report on the Natick Mall Message Fair. It was termed a success with 654 messages sent as well as an appearance on the Channel 5 TV news. Only \$34 was spent on supplies this year.

Dick Paret, WA1ZLQ, gave a report on the blizzard operation with the Newton/ Wellesley Hospital that occurred on December 6.

On the repeater it was reported that the transmit antenna at the hospital had bent over and had to be shortened and reinstalled. Still no word on when the hospital plans to install the tower we bought for the transmit antenna.

A request was made for anyone interested in operating the VHF Sweepstakes at W1YK.

Brief mention was made of the following upcoming events: BAA Marathon, April 19; spring auction, April 17.

The meeting was closed at 8:32 pm. □

FROM THE MAILBAG



The Greater Boston Chapter of the American Red Cross would like to invite all Amateurs to use the 144.63/145.23 MHz repeater. The repeater's prime purpose is to support Red Cross Disaster Services and other public service events. With the machine now located on the Federal Reserve Bank building in downtown Boston, at 625 feet, coverage has been in excess of the I-495 area. All groups are invited to use the machine for public service events. The only thing we request is to notify us of when you intend to use it so we can prevent any conflicts in scheduling. Of course, emergency usage of the machine is exempt. Otherwise, the machine is open completely for rag chewing or any other general usage. To schedule the machine please contact David Dodell, WB7TPY at day: 956-6990, night: 426-8963 or Steve MacKenzie, WB1DNZ at 891-5631. We can also be reached on the repeater. We hope all will use the machine. □

VHF CONTEST

by Nels Anderson, K1UR

Our third entry in the ARRL's January VHF Sweepstakes was made on the weekend of January 16 and 17 with operation once again taking place from the Worcester Polytechnic Institute Wireless Association club station, W1YK.

With continuous improvement of our equipment in each contest since last January we felt confident that we could easily better our previous results, even though we have decided to not operate FM simplex. Since last year, we have gotten a 432 amplifier going so that we now run 50-60 watts output power on that band and also have added a 68 element yagi array and have gotten the correct crystal to put the 220 station in the most active portion of the band. We also now have the Gunnplexers which, although expected to account for one contact, would be worth more than that would seem because of the increasing point values with greater frequency. With this going for us, it seemed that an improved score was a sure thing. It didn't quite turn out that way.

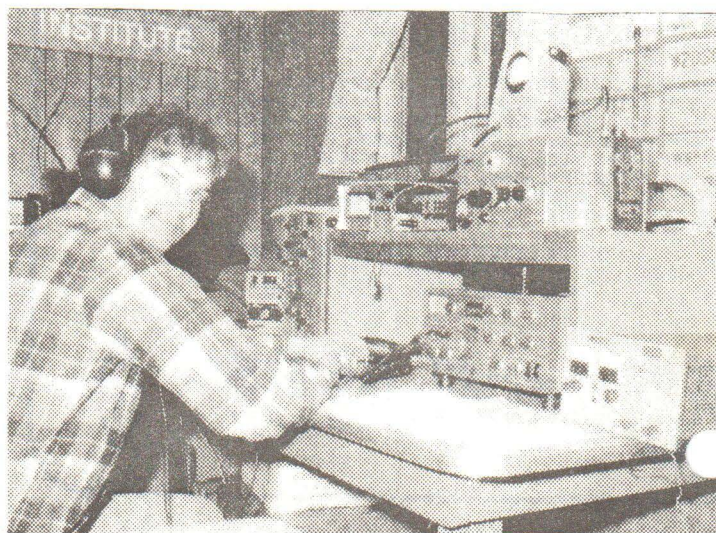
No, the equipment didn't fail during the big band opening, the problem was that there was no big band opening. There wasn't even a little band opening. The closest thing to an opening was when a few 8's managed to sneak through on scatter. In addition there were apparently no VE stations on or at least none within range considering the prevailing conditions. Usually we can count on two or three sections from the north but not this time.

Obviously our score did hurt as a result, but not as much as you might think because our new equipment really was better. In fact, only on six meters did our contact total go down. Our vastly improved 432 station resulted in an increase from 10 contacts last year to 54 this year which alone made up for the loss on six meters. The poor conditions caused a big loss in the number of sections worked, from

23 last year to only 17 this year, which equalled our lowest total ever in any VHF contest, including several years ago when our equipment was nothing like we have now. Oh, well!

Anyway, here is an exact rundown on our results for the 1982 VHF Sweepstakes:

<u>Band</u>	<u>QSOs</u>	<u>Pts each</u>	<u>Pts.</u>	<u>Mult.</u>
50	137	2	274	
144	230	2	460	
220	13	4	52	
432	54	4	216	
10000	1	16	16	
TOTAL	435		1018	17



Dave Kent, N2AWG, shown operating the 432 MHz station.

The complete equipment line-up for this years contest is as follows: six meters, Yaesu FT625RD, Heath SB-200 amplifier, 6 element yagi; two meters, Kenwood TS-700S, 4CX250 amplifier, pair 11 element yagis; 220 MHz, homebrew transmitter, receive converter with Collins R-388 receiver, 8 element yagi; 432 MHz, Microwave Modules MMT432/28S transverter borrowed from W1MJ, K2RIW amplifier, 4-17 element yagis; 10 GHz Microwave Associates Gunnplexer.

The operators at W1YK were David Curry, K1TK, Dave Kent, N2AWG, Bill Downing, WA1PQY, Dick Paret, WA1ZLQ, Nels Anderson, K1UR, Erik Thoresen, K1OGF, and Scott Nacey, WA1YOJ.

It should not be forgotten that VHF Sweepstakes is one of the contests where a club is allowed to make an en-

try composed of the total of all the scores on all club members who operated their stations. In the past two years we have placed respectably in the local club category, coming in third and fourth. We will again be making an entry in this category with the help of several club members who took the time to make contacts from their own stations. Included in this group are Mort Cohan, KA1IU, who operated two meters from his home; Dick Paret, WA1ZLQ, and Nels Anderson, K1UR, who both took time off from the multi-op station to operate out of their cars from the 1100 foot elevation of the Worcester airport despite temperatures near zero and high winds. Each of this group made 50-100 contacts to add significantly to the club aggregate total. We should know how we did around June when the results appear in QST.

So ends another VHF Sweepstakes, with all operators enjoying themselves despite the poor band conditions and little sleep. Maybe we'll hear you on for the fun next year. □

hr REPORT

Contacts with clandestine Polish personal communicators have been made on both the Amateur and C.B. bands despite the ban imposed on such operation by the ruling military regime. Only a few days after the armed forces took over, Seymore Lasonsky, W6CCP, and three other California hams: K6DQ, W6OMR, and W6NOL heard an unidentified station claiming to be transmitting from Poland. W6CCP was operating on 14.210 MHz SSB in QSO with a station in Siberia, and it was after signing with that station that he heard a faint CW signal come back to him. Rotating his 7 element 20 meter array to peak the signal he found it strongest when pointed short-path towards Poland. The mystery radio operator used the call sign: SP6/Poland and sent W6CCP the following message:

"Tell the West, tanks all towns. Five million on strike. O.K. Union solidarity O.K. No food. Cold. Militia is police. Organize food and clothing to the children. Cold. Now must QRT.

Thanks to my U.S.A. Tell West my QTC."

The QSO lasted about 4 minutes and the Polish station broke several times to be sure that W6CCP was copying. It happened so fast that neither W6CCP nor anyone else had the time to record the QSO, but Seymore and the media believed it to be legitimate.

hr Report, January 15, 1982 □

Auctions / Flea Markets

February 27: Norwood A.R.C. flea market, at the VFW Post, Dean Street, Norwood. Hours are 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Food available.

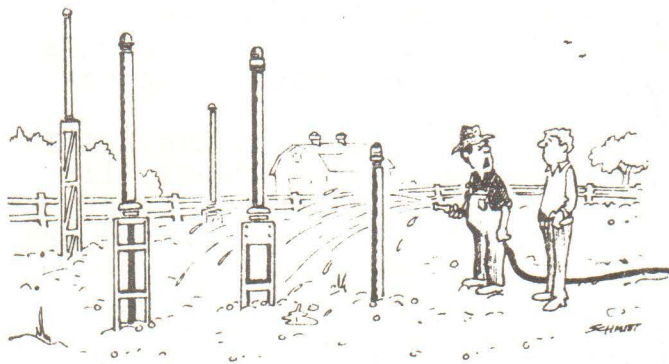
April 17: Our own W.A.R.S. spring auction, at the Wellesley High School. Starts at 11:00 with doors opened at 10:00. Food available. Commission is 15%, 1\$ minimum, \$30 maximum. □

Hereabouts...

In last months article on the Natick Mall Message Fair, Mort Cohan, KA1IU, was left off the list of participants. Sorry Mort!

Although we were not able to obtain a guest speaker for the February 18th meeting we will not be without a program. We will have a slide show from the Natick Mall Message Fair and from the January VHF Sweepstakes. So, if you were at either of these, come and see yourself or if you missed it, you can come and see what you missed! □

CHUCKLE KORNERS



"It's an antenna farm."



THE RUSSIAN SATELLITES

by Nels Anderson, K1UR

The Amateur satellite program was greatly enhanced recently when the U.S.S.R. launched six satellites in their RS series. The satellites, numbered RS-3 through RS-8 were launched December 17, 1981 into orbits similar to those of the OSCAR series of Amateur satellites.

Early indications show that there are two each of three different types of satellites. RS-3 and RS-4 appear to have only experimental beacons on board. RS-6 and RS-8 are transponder satellites similar to OSCAR 7 and 8. RS-5 and RS-7 are the most innovative of the group. These two have robot transponders which allow you to actually contact the satellite itself. The satellites indicate their readiness to make contacts by calling CQ on their downlink frequency and giving the frequency they are listening on. These robots have been heard in operation here but few seem to be successful in contacting them apparently due to QRM.

The transponders on RS-6 and RS-8 have been on now for some time and seem to be working quite well. The downlink signals are better than OSCAR 7 and 8 by quite a bit, and they also seem to be somewhat more sensitive on the uplink. Several contacts have been made through both satellites from K1UR despite an antenna that was probably pointed wrong since no orbital predictions are yet available. The satellites have about the same range as the OSCAR Phase II series and contact has been made with California and England has been heard on appropriate passes.

If you want to listen to the satellites you should have no trouble if you have a reasonably good 10 meter receiver and antenna. The signals are quite strong and have been observed often peaking at around S-7. Each satellite has a beacon which can be heard on the following frequencies:

RS-3	29.321 MHz
RS-4	29.361 MHz
RS-5	29.451 MHz
RS-6	29.452 MHz
RS-7	29.341 MHz
RS-8	29.501 MHz

The input and output frequencies for the two robot transponders are RS-5: 145.83/29.33; RS-7 145.84/29.34. The transponder frequencies for RS-6 are 145.91-145.95 input, 29.41-29.45 output, and for RS-8 are 145.96-146.00 input, 29.46-29.5 output. Further information on orbits, etc. should be available in the near future. In the meantime, try listening to the new RS satellites any evening after about 7:00 pm. □

hr REPORT

Expansion of U.S. phone bands, 220 MHz phone privileges for Novices, and proposals to change some power limits are all likely to be seeing FCC action in the near future. The phone band expansion, despite opposition from outside the country, will probably come up first. The power limit proposals, one to permit higher power levels for moonbounce work and the other to reduce CW power, are likely to be tied in with long-standing FCC attempts to develop new power-specifying techniques.

hr Reports, December 31, 1981 □

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:

David Curry, K1TK, 756-5325

VICE PRESIDENT:

Dick Paret, WA1ZLQ, 762-5074

TREASURER:

C.J. McDonald, WB1BUM, 332-6091

RECORDING SECRETARY:

Nels Anderson, K1UR, 323-5029

FUND RAISING:

Kevin Kelly, WA1YHV, 242-0341

OPERATING ACTIVITIES:

David Kent, N2AWG, 756-5325